

2016 Survey of graduating seniors on their Stevenson Core Course experience

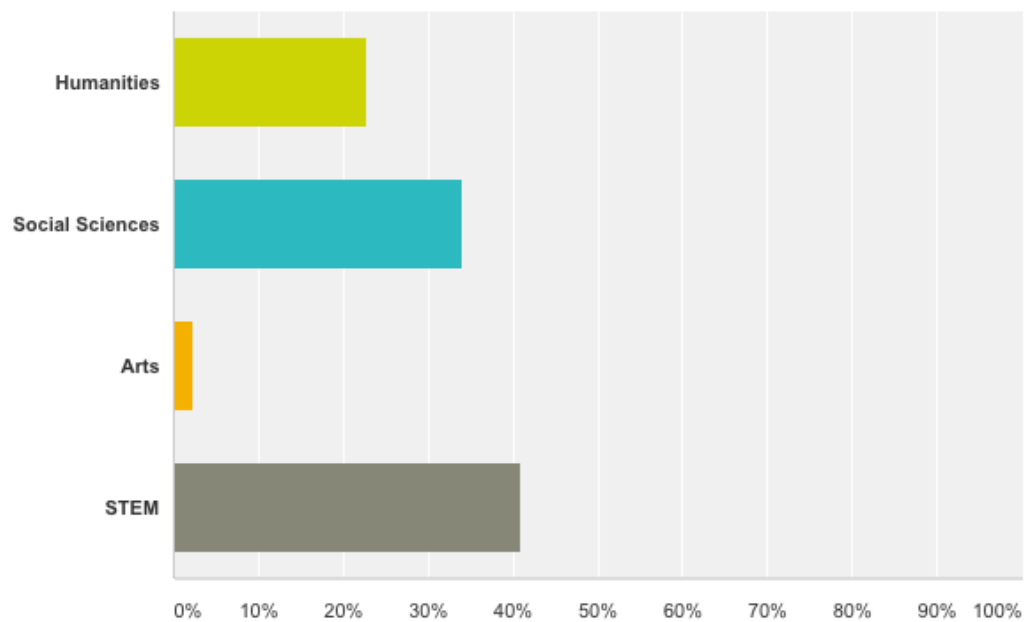
Questions written by Caren Camblin, Stevenson Core Course Coordinator, with input from Alice Yang, Stevenson Provost and Bruce Thompson, Lecturer.

Students responded from 5/31/16 to 6/10/16 to a link sent via email from Mary Alvarez, Stevenson Adviser.

Q1.

In what area is your major?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0

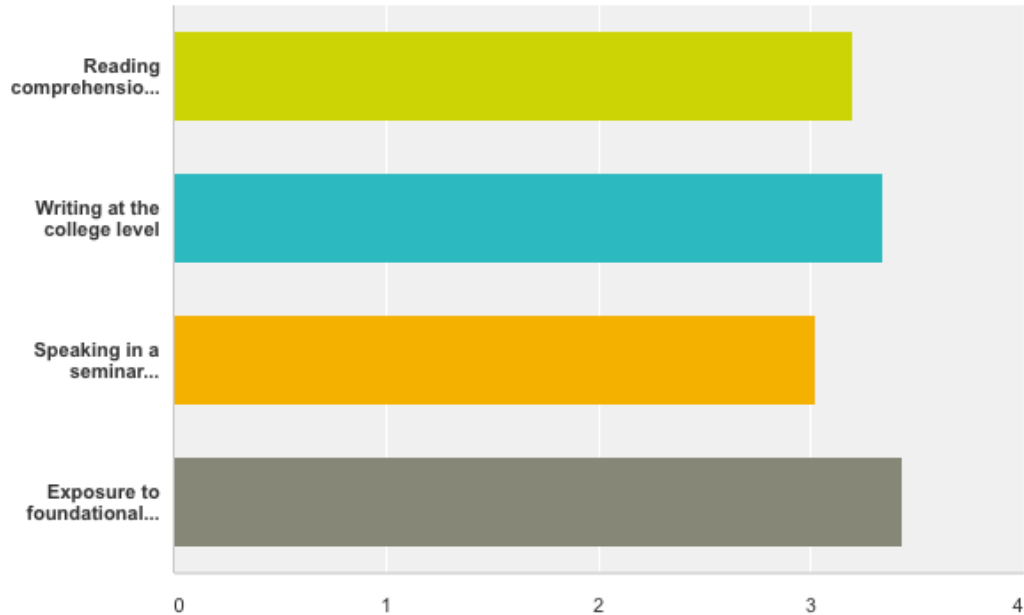


Answer Choices	Responses
▼ Humanities	22.73% 10
▼ Social Sciences	34.09% 15
▼ Arts	2.27% 1
▼ STEM	40.91% 18
Total	44

Q2.

How helpful was the Core Course to you in providing a foundation for college?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



	Essential	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not helpful	Total	Weighted Average
Reading comprehension at the college level	47.73% 21	27.27% 12	22.73% 10	2.27% 1	44	3.20
Writing at the college level	52.27% 23	31.82% 14	13.64% 6	2.27% 1	44	3.34
Speaking in a seminar environment	45.45% 20	25.00% 11	15.91% 7	13.64% 6	44	3.02
Exposure to foundational texts	63.64% 28	20.45% 9	11.36% 5	4.55% 2	44	3.43

[Comments \(9\)](#)

Free responses:

Showing 9 responses

Core should stay.

6/9/2016 11:31 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

This was a great course in starting off classes in college for freshman. It helped build a foundation to how to write college papers, how to read texts, and how to apply them to paper topics.

6/3/2016 10:27 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I was a Junior Fellow, and experienced first hand the lack of writing ability for most incoming frosh. The ability to organize a paper, understand format styles, and present coherent ideas is pertinent to all majors. Core allows for refinement of these skills in a space with easy access to the professor, and more of a hands-on learning environment. If freshmen do not have access to this course, I think many of them will have significantly more trouble succeeding in their college career.

6/1/2016 5:55 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Best classes of my ucsc career. Changed how I viewed the world and my role in it

5/31/2016 3:15 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Stevenson Core not only prepared me for my future courses in college, but also gave me tools to navigate social situations in regards to religion, race, gender, sexuality, and identity. I became a stronger member of my community thanks to Core

5/31/2016 3:13 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Core makes a man out of you

5/31/2016 12:52 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Exposed me to what is expected of me in college classes in a safe environment.

5/31/2016 11:13 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I LOVED MY CORE CLASS stevenson core was extremely necessary and wouldn't trade my experience and learning in that class for anything

5/31/2016 10:46 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

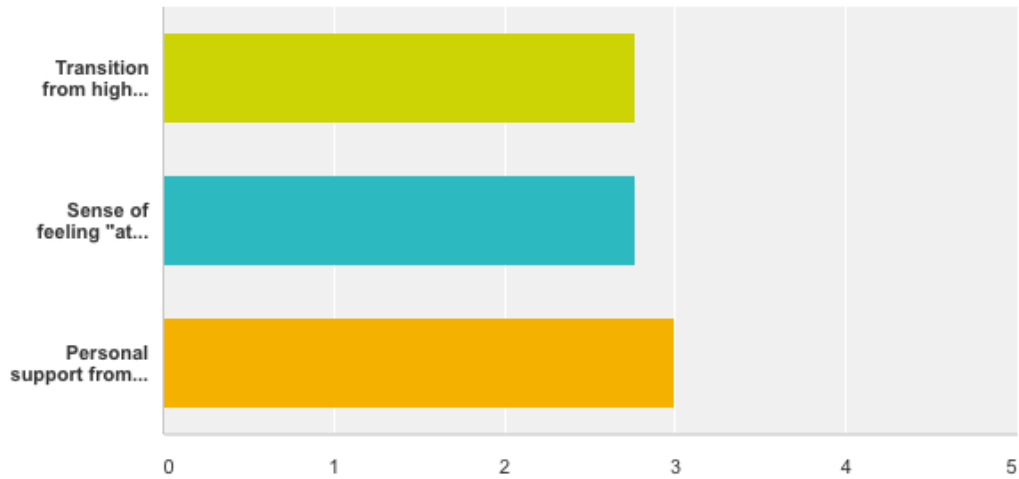
As a STEM major, I cannot imagine how I would have learned the basics of reading comprehension, setting up an essay, formatting an argument, researching supporting articles, etc. without my Stevenson core course. The texts had impacted my first year here because it opened my eyes to a diverse world of different beliefs and culture. I came from a white religious small town and having to read Gandhi, the Quran, Tao te Ching, etc. made me realize how much I had to learn. My core teachers taught me that I was able to speak up in class and my comments were relevant to facilitating a conversation about the texts. This was one of my only courses with less than 200 people. Without core I don't think I would have been challenged to go outside my comfort zone with writing and speaking. I would not have been as well rounded as a student.

5/31/2016 10:19 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Q3.

How helpful was the Core course in providing social or emotional support for you?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



	Essential	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not helpful	Total	Weighted Average
Transition from high school to college	31.82% 14	31.82% 14	18.18% 8	18.18% 8	44	2.77
Sense of feeling "at home" in the college community	34.09% 15	27.27% 12	20.45% 9	18.18% 8	44	2.77
Personal support from my Core instructor	38.64% 17	36.36% 16	11.36% 5	13.64% 6	44	3.00

[Comments \(8\)](#)

Free responses:

Showing 8 responses

I made many friends in core that I have maintained through out college. Core gives a space for people to meet and discuss about issues that they would otherwise not address with peers. It allows people to connect to many different levels and to be able to explore topics they would not typically be aware of.

6/1/2016 5:55 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Kehler is the best prof I've had here and was also very understanding and helpful on a personal level

5/31/2016 3:15 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I was nervous about becoming just a number when first starting college. The Core environment was intimate and attentive, which greatly impacted my transition to a university education in a positive way

5/31/2016 3:13 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Core helps you have deep conversations with peers

5/31/2016 12:52 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Transitioning from high school to college meaning that if the courses help us? if that is the case than in some ways it did. it was a great way to start the quarter because it did give me a sense of how seminar classes work and how different they were from lecture classes.

5/31/2016 10:57 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

As I said, although core brought me out of my comfort zone, most of the time, I was always welcomed and new it was a safe space. Core did help me meet some of my friends today. Core helped me transition from high school to college by showing me I had to study, read, and use the resources, if needed.

5/31/2016 10:19 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

The core course helped solidify the Stevenson community for me. Even today I can run into any of my old classmates from freshman year and say hi.

5/31/2016 9:11 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

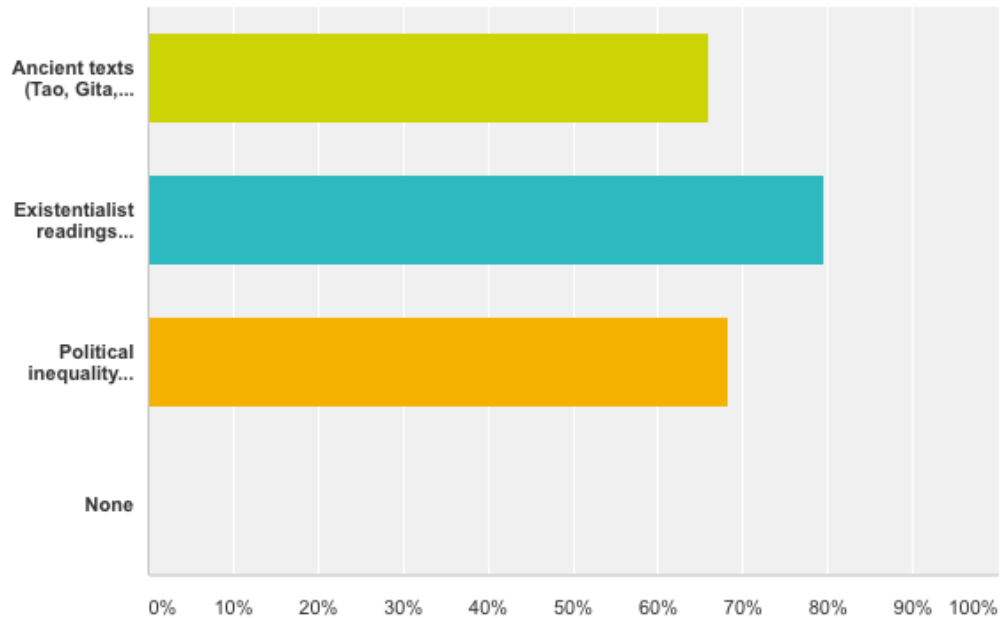
My core instructor was horrible. She graded me down because I had a different opinion - I didn't realize that coming to college meant following the leader and discouraging differing opinions.

5/31/2016 8:55 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Q4.

In retrospect, which Core readings did you find especially rewarding and/or integral to the student and person you've become? (Select all that apply.)

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
▼ Ancient texts (Tao, Gita, Gilgamesh, Genesis, Matthew, The Cow)	65.91% 29
▼ Existentialist readings (Sartre, Nietzsche, Frankl)	79.55% 35
▼ Political inequality readings (Gandhi, King, Malcolm X, Anzaldua, Satrapi)	68.18% 30
▼ None	0.00% 0

Total Respondents: 44

Free responses:

Showing 11 responses

The texts that we read for these classes are some of the most important texts in the world. They are essential to read if someone is understand and impact the world.

6/9/2016 11:50 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

To be honest, though I loved all of them!

6/3/2016 10:27 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Political inequality readings were ESSENTIAL.

6/2/2016 11:18 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I think all of these texts provide a necessary platform in which to understand the history of society, the development of the self, and the other's struggles within a social space.

6/1/2016 5:55 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

the political inequality readings were NECESSARY to my understanding of identity and privilege

5/31/2016 3:13 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I really enjoyed reading all the texts. I enjoyed from than others. Some texts were harder to read than others but when we talked about it in core, we broke it down and it was easier to understand.

5/31/2016 10:57 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

ALL OF THEM

5/31/2016 10:46 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I feel as though all of these texts influenced my thinking to who I am today.

5/31/2016 10:19 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I'm currently writing on the geneology of existentialist thoughts and writing. Through this area of study I feel more connected to myself and the world around me. Core was my foundation of interest.

5/31/2016 9:08 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I'm a social science and humanities major which means that all of these texts are highly foundational

5/31/2016 8:56 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

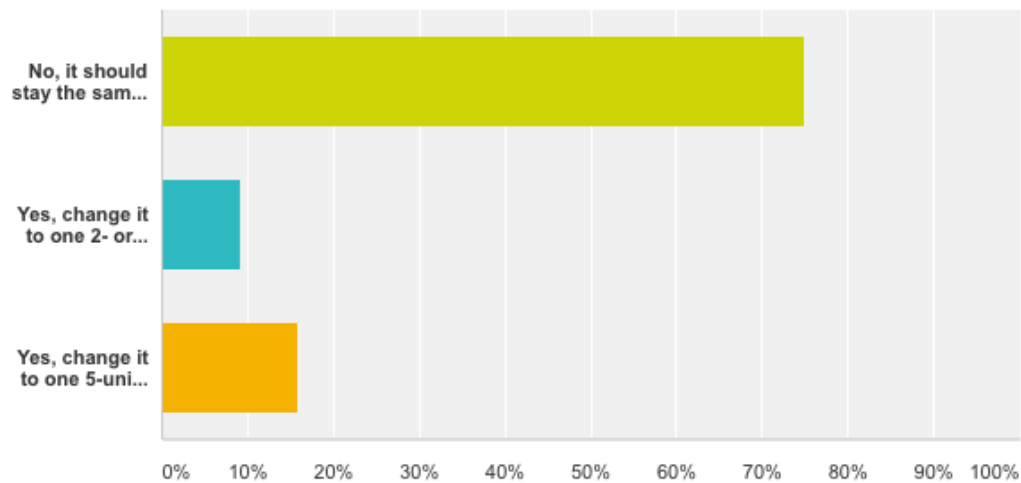
Reading those religious texts opened my eyes to a vast sea of different beliefs, but also showed me that at the core of each religion was the same message: to spread love. These books changed my life.

5/31/2016 8:54 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Q5.

There have been proposals to change all Core courses in 2017 to one 2- or 3-unit seminar, OR to one 5-unit lecture. Would you approve of reducing Stevenson Core to one of these options?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
▼ No, it should stay the same (5-unit seminars in both Fall & Winter)	75.00% 33
▼ Yes, change it to one 2- or 3-unit seminar in Fall only	9.09% 4
▼ Yes, change it to one 5-unit lecture in Fall only	15.91% 7
Total	44

Free responses:

Showing 14 responses

Perhaps make Stevenson core one quarter instead of 2

6/9/2016 6:19 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Reading all of texts, would be way too much for one class. Furthermore, Stevenson's Core Class defines its personality, to change the structure of core classes would change Stevenson as a college.

6/9/2016 11:50 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

The conversations that core course stimulates outside of the classroom amongst Stevenson students are extremely important. Shortening the course would mean shortening the duration

of these conversations.

6/2/2016 11:18 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

The core courses in all other colleges count as 5 units so there should be no difference with Stevenson. Lowering the units means lowering how many hours are required to work on class-related material outside of class. I don't think this is a good idea because I think it would benefit students, especially students who have difficulty writing or who didn't receive the education necessary for exceptional writing, to have more time required to work on reading and writing skills outside of class. I liked having an extra quarter compared to everyone else when it came to the core course. If you didn't do well in your first quarter of core, it gives you a chance to better yourself in the second quarter. And there are even more books you get to read on social justice/existentialism or religion that you get to read that you might otherwise would not have taken the opportunity to read on your own. I think it's a great way for students to become more aware of themselves and their relation to the world, history, and our current society through reading these texts and participating in discussion facilitated by our professors.

6/2/2016 12:31 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I think the core is so influential in Stevenson college especially because of the two course commitment. It forces students to actually develop these ideas alongside their college experiences.

6/1/2016 5:55 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

If it is only one quarter, the Winter readings should be prioritized

5/31/2016 3:13 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

If it has to happen I would say a seminar class, NOT a lecture

5/31/2016 3:00 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

This school is getting way worse. Taking away the Stevenson cafe. Ruining the porter meadow. Why would you butcher core next?

5/31/2016 12:52 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I like that it is a seminar class and it is small and its 5 units. You have a stronger connection with your professors and also other students. its nice to start off your first-year in a seminar class because, how i mention before, you see the difference between lecture and seminar classes. the readings are easier to discuss in a seminar setting and requires more participation and to stay engage in the class. if you were to have a big lecture hall it might be a little harder to keep everyone engaged.

5/31/2016 10:57 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I liked having the two quarters because it satisfies a G.E. as well.

5/31/2016 10:31 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I understand budget cuts, but this is one that should not be cut. It deserves to be a 5 unit course with the amount of workload and time spent towards the material and assignments. It needs to be twice a week to fully engage with the material, obtain other views about the material from other students, build the relationship both with the professor and the other students, and to feel comfortable enough to speak up about the texts.

5/31/2016 10:19 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Many kids aren't prepared to write at the college level when they enter college; Core certainly helped me refine my writing skills.

5/31/2016 9:02 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

This school is already reducing in its uniqueness and quality since I've been a student here. Reducing a fundamental part of the Stevenson education would be detrimental to our college community.

5/31/2016 8:56 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

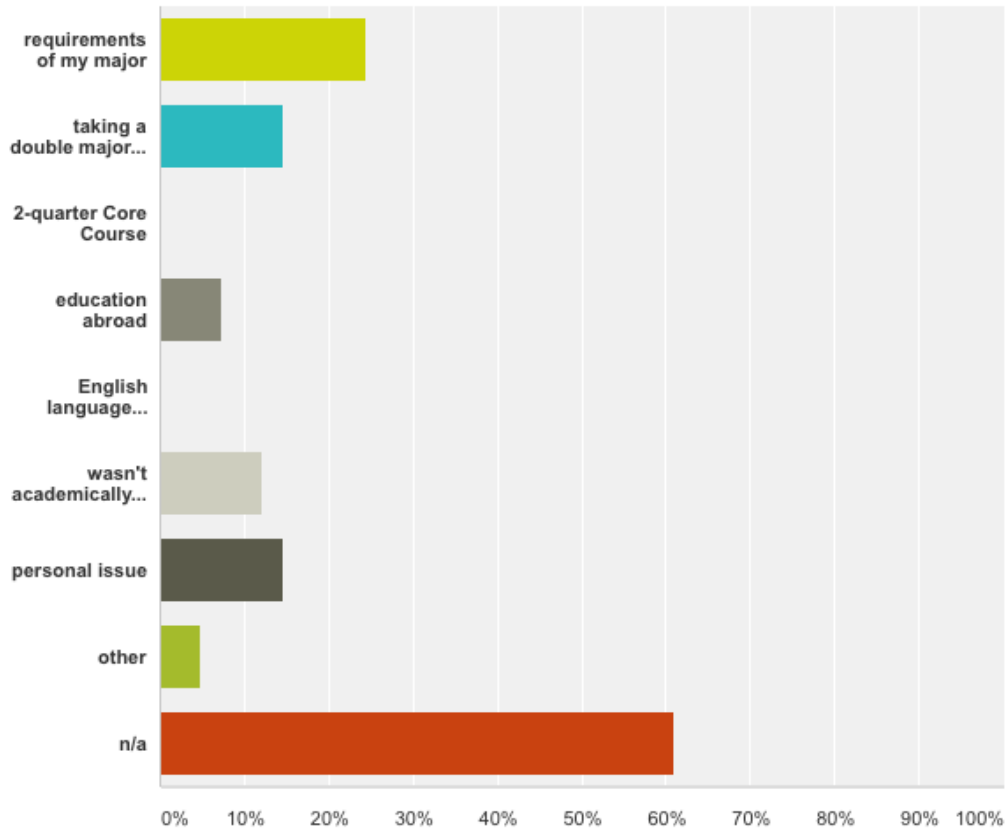
The small classes two quarters in a row really allow you to interact with people you're living with. Great transition into college life!

5/31/2016 8:54 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Q6.

**If you have taken longer than 4 years to graduate, which of these items would you identify as factors in delaying graduation?
Select all that apply.**

Answered: 41 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses
requirements of my major	24.39% 10
taking a double major or a minor	14.63% 6
2-quarter Core Course	0.00% 0
education abroad	7.32% 3
English language acquisition	0.00% 0
wasn't academically prepared	12.20% 5
personal issue	14.63% 6
other	4.88% 2
n/a	60.98% 25

Total Respondents: 41

Q7. Any last comments on your Core course experience? Please also provide your name, if you are willing to let us quote you for our web page or other informational materials.

Free responses:

They changed my perspective on life and made me a more rounded person.

6/10/2016 2:06 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

none

6/10/2016 2:04 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

It is essential as is- do not change.

6/9/2016 2:57 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I would say core class was the essential to my college education. It gave me an advantage in college, provide me with material that I could use throughout my college career and most importantly challenged my perspective.

6/9/2016 11:50 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I still look back on the things I learned in my core course as a freshman and apply it to things today. It was very helpful and I think it is an essential part of the UCSC curriculum not just as building a foundation, but to preserve the traditional core courses and theme of Stevenson College.

6/3/2016 10:27 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

While core course seemed long while I was in it, after finishing it, and finishing school, I feel like a much more well-read, well-rounded person. So many of the political inequality texts are SO relevant today, and as a STEM major, I was only exposed to these texts through core course. -Laura Wisdom

6/2/2016 11:18 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

The core courses are instrumental in what makes Stevenson, Stevenson. You discuss the texts and discussions that happened in class with your floormates and housemates. You talk about what prompts and essays your Professors are requiring you to do and then you go to the Stevenson library to pull an all-nighter with your friends. The core courses also bring together students who may have not otherwise gotten to know each other. Sometimes the houses can be divisive but having students from different houses in one classroom can initiate friendships that may have never begun. That's how it was for me and I could not have imagined starting off my college career without my two core courses. --Anita Kutty

6/2/2016 12:31 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Melissa Tribble. Please quote me if it helps to preserve core!

6/1/2016 5:55 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Stevenson Core provided an excellent foundation for college and the kinds of text I would encounter in future classes. As a legal studies major, I was required to read many of the same texts we had already read in Stevenson Core and I found that Core gave me a great foundation for my encounter with these texts in upper division classes. I think Stevenson Core is essential and should stay exactly as it is currently!

5/31/2016 10:49 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Gabriel Lluch. These courses were invaluable to me for providing a new level of perception, insight, value, and reasoning for how I view the world, and each human's role in it. Furthermore it provides students with an important toolbox with which they can asses, reason through, and express the ideas and the evolution of those ideas that have plagued humans since the relevant developments of the prefrontal cortex that allowed us to question ourselves and the universe

5/31/2016 3:15 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I loved my Core experience and wouldn't give it up My name is Jamie Joy - you can quote me

5/31/2016 3:13 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Made some of my best friends. read some of my favorite books

5/31/2016 12:52 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

It can and cannot be an issue to have 2 quarters of core. one issue is that we have a lot of books that we need to purchase and sometimes we buy books where we only need a little passage from it. Just a little passage from like a \$15 book. we can find a way to reduce some of the short passage reading or be able to access them through ecommons or something and then we can print them out. I like how our core its 2 quarter because i really enjoyed it and i really like the professor i had. Otilia Perez

5/31/2016 10:57 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

After my four years here, core has still been one of my favorite classes here, specifically with Caren Camblin. Although, I've heard nothing but amazing things about all of the professors who taught core. Core challenged me mentally and spiritually. I came in to college as a stubborn Christian but core had taught me how beautiful every religion and belief system is and how everyone should be treated equal. Core brought me confidence in my writing that I had never felt before. Core gave me the foundation I needed to build my writing skills, that after four years, I'm proud to say I have. Core is the most essential course on campus. It prepares you academically, spiritually, and mentally for college. I honestly cannot imagine who I would be today without being assigned those books and having to analyze them. -Lexi Martin 2012-2016

5/31/2016 10:19 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Stevenson core considers self and society on a deeper and wider level than anything I had been exposed to before. Any student heading towards a BA will get a survey of fields to guide their interests. Any student headed towards a BS will learn to write which is crucial for labs, and improve their ability to communicate which is crucial for effective group organization.

5/31/2016 9:08 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Core is essential to the Stevenson College experience. To reduce it, would reflect the university's grand scheme to commodify education because of the increased enrollment numbers. Students are paying an outrageous amount of money and at the very least deserve a small seminar freshman year. -vicky mcdonald

5/31/2016 9:00 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Saeli Eshelman It was amazing. I'm graduating a year early with two majors, both of which rely heavily on theories I learned in my first two quarters of college.

5/31/2016 8:56 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

After 4 years, the core courses were still my favorite courses where I experienced the most growth. Charlotte Moss

5/31/2016 8:54 AM [View respondent's answers](#)